

finding creative things to do with cold leftovers.

You see, the budget they're serving today is nothing but a warmed-over version of the same misplaced priorities that the American people rejected last year.

Take away the sugarcoating, and you've got crucial education programs targeted for deep cuts or elimination.

Minus the garnish, you've got a Medicare plan that will make seniors pay more for less, while their hospitals close.

And, when you remove the trimmings on their budget, you end up with huge tax breaks for the wealthy special interests we simply can't afford.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a blueprint for balancing the budget—it's a recipe for disaster. So, I say to the new majority: Keep your cold leftovers.

It's time to give the American people what they want—a balanced budget that moves our Nation forward without leaving behind those who depend on us most—our children, seniors, families, and our environment.

ANOTHER CLINTON SCANDAL BREWING: FBI FILES RAIDED

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the paper shredders over at the White House are abuzz with activity. Yet another Clinton scandal is brewing involving a coverup and the abuse of power.

Evidently, the Clinton administration raided the FBI files of 341 Bush and Reagan employees. Not only were these people investigated, but their files were kept inside the vault of the White House security office.

Information gleaned from these files was passed along to Clinton appointee Craig Livingstone, whose boss was Associate Counsel William H. Kennedy, a former Rose law firm partner with Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, why did the White House want these files? What kind of information were they after? Are there other people who were investigated?

In 1992, Bill Clinton refused to make public any FBI files about his anti-Vietnam activity. But as President he has no reservations whatsoever about raiding the FBI files of his Republican opponents.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again reminds Members that personal references to the President are not supposed to be made.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PLAN: SECOND VERSE, SAME AS THE FIRST

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here we have the second verse same as the first but with a lower in tone.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is continuing its attack on Medicare. Last year they wanted to cut the growth in Medicare \$270 billion and provide for a tax cut of \$245 billion. While they still have their sights set a little lower this year, they still want to cut Medicare \$168 billion.

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Now they say that it is cutting Medicare or that it is cutting the growth of Medicare, but again let us reason that if you have more people getting to be 65 and people 65 living longer, you have to have growth even more than inflation that they say. At the same time they want to give this tax cut of \$176 billion only to some of the wealthiest. For the second year in a row the Republican majority is using the trustees' report to talk about how bad they need to do it.

If Medicare is in trouble, then let us take that savings and plow it back into Medicare, and not use it to give tax cuts or to balance the budget. I hope that our Republican majority will change their second verse.

THE CARE FOR HUMAN LIFE IS THE OBJECT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I had a town meeting Saturday in Hampton, FL, and Janice Sanford was there at the town meeting and she gave me hundreds of petitions dealing with the partial-birth abortion veto by the President. President Clinton has once again demonstrated that he favors legal, unrestricted, and easily available abortions on demand, even in the ninth month of pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once said,

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.

I share this commitment to actively support legislation that sustains the Federal Government's traditional goals in family planning.

Members of both Houses of Congress already voted to promote these goals when we said no to partial-birth abortions. I strenuously oppose President Clinton's veto of the ban, and urge my colleagues to say no once again when we have the opportunity to override this veto.

Once again, I congratulate Janice Sanford for her active efforts to demonstrate this by the petition she gave me last Saturday.

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW GARDENER

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, America needs a new gardener. When Speaker GINGRICH insists that Medicare should be permitted to wither on the vine, it is time to find a gardener who knows the difference between strengthening Medicare and allowing it to shrivel.

That is not EverGrow that Speaker GINGRICH is proposing to pour on the vine of Medicare; it is the salt of neglect, of decades of neglect of the health care security of American families. That is not a green thumb that the Speaker is offering; it is the darkened green thumb of neglect of the health care security of American families.

Mr. Speaker, we should focus on the Medicare trustees' report, for the real issue is trust. Should we trust the people who want to let Medicare shrivel on the vine, or should we trust those who overcame the opposition of BOB DOLE and the Republicans of that era to build Medicare into a garden whose fruits of health care security are available to every American?

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on International Relations; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 3610, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (during consideration of H.R. 2909) from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-617) on the bill (H.R. 3610) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was